

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: May 16, 2006
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WSP to Enforce New Federal Load Securement Rules

Beginning August 1, 2006, WSP will start enforcing new Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) rules for load securement resulting from congressional action in January 2004. The rules provide performance criteria for cargo securement to prevent articles of cargo from shifting upon or falling from commercial vehicles during acceleration and deceleration.

The regulations provide procedures for determining the appropriate number and type of tie-downs for securing cargo. Some commodity specific requirements were provided, however there were no commodity specific requirements for fruit bins. WSP delayed enforcement of the rules while they sought clarification from FMCSA on how this would affect the securement of fruit bins and what method of securement would meet the requirements outlined in the new rule. Based on the decision by FMCSA and following the requirements of the new regulation, a change in fruit bin securement is necessary.

“The current method utilizing 3/8 inch cables can still be used, but the load will require additional straps or tie-downs to meet the new federal requirements,” explained Captain Coral Estes, Commercial Vehicle Division Commander. “Our intent is to meet with the industry and review the new requirement and educate them on the allowable methods for securement. These changes are about ensuring the motoring public is as safe as possible while still allowing expeditious movement of products. We will issue written warnings and continue to educate carriers until January 1, 2007, however, citations will be given to repeat offenders failing to comply with the new rules,” Estes added.

WSP will be hosting two public information meetings to present the new methods of cargo securement for fruit bins.

PUBLIC MEETINGS:

Where: Yakima Convention Center, Yakima WA.
Date: May 22, 2006
Time: 1:00 PM

Where: Wenatchee Apple Commission, Wenatchee WA.
Date: June 5, 2006
Time: 10:00 AM